

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA SENATE  
61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION  
COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Call to Order:** CHAIRMAN JOHN ESP, on January 14, 2009 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. John Esp, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Jeff Essmann, Vice Chairman (R)  
Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)  
Sen. Ron Erickson (D)  
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)  
Sen. Kim Gillan (D)  
Sen. Verdell Jackson (R)  
Sen. Jesse Laslovich (D)  
Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Leanne Heisel, Legislative Branch  
Debra Polhemus, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 8, 1/6/2009; SB 110, 1/6/2009

Executive Action:

**HEARING ON SB 110**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:56 **SEN. RICK RIPLEY (R), SD 9**, opened the hearing on  
**SB 110**, Volunteer firefighter participation in county  
health insurance pool.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:05:01 Richard Van Auken, Teton County Fire Chief  
00:08:25 Bob Drake, Fire Chief Tri-Lakes Volunteer Fire Company,  
Helena  
00:10:43 Jim Dusenberry, Montana Fire District Association

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:11:30 Bob Worthington, representing Montana Municipal  
Insurance Authority (MMIA)  
00:13:59 Sheryl Wood, Associate Director, Montana Association of  
Counties (MACo)

**EXHIBIT**(los08a01)

**Informational Testimony:**

00:16:23 Ted Mead, Chief Fire and Aviation Manager, Department  
of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**EXHIBIT**(los08a02)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:17:46 Sen. Barkus  
00:18:29 Sen. Ripley  
00:19:00 Sen. Barkus  
00:19:13 Bob Worthington, MMIA  
00:20:31 Sen. Erickson  
00:20:59 Sheryl Wood, MACo  
00:22:24 Sen. Erickson  
00:23:28 Chairman Esp  
00:23:49 Bob Worthington, MMIA  
00:25:31 Leanne Heisel, Legislative Services Division  
00:25:59 Sen. Gillan

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:26:59 Sen. Ripley

**HEARING ON SB 8**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:30:26 **SEN. KEN (KIM) HANSEN (D), SD 17**, opened the hearing on **SB 8**, Authorize charter form of government for regional water entities.

**Informational Testimony:**

00:34:12 Dan Clark, Local Government Center, Montana State University (MSU)

**EXHIBIT(los08a03)**

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:42:30 Rep. Wayne Stahl, HD 35

00:44:57 Lt. Governor John Bohlinger, also Co-Chairman, St. Mary's Rehabilitation Working Group

**EXHIBIT(los08a04)**

00:50:10 Paul Azevedo, DNRC

00:51:32 Former Rep. John Musgrove, self

00:54:56 Rep. Wendy Warburton, HD 64

00:57:26 Sen. Jerry Black, SD 14

00:58:15 Speaker Bob Bergren, HD 33

00:58:57 Jeff Tieberi, Montana Association of Conservation Districts

00:59:40 Pam Lemer, Economic Development District

01:00:14 Mark Manoukian, member St. Mary's Rehabilitation Working Group and representing Phillips Country Economic Development Council

01:01:18 Mike Murphy, representing Montana Water Resources Council

01:01:53 Paul Tuss, Havre, self

01:02:15 Gary Anderson, Member, St. Mary's working group, representing City of Chinook

01:04:14 Mike DesRosier, member Blackfeet Tribe, also speaking for Glacier County Commissioners

01:05:36 Jennifer Brandon, Milk River Joint Irrigation Board of Control

01:05:54 Steve Page, Rancher

01:06:20 Roger Running Crane, representing Blackfeet Business Council

**EXHIBIT(los08a05)**

01:12:30 Wade Jones, Irrigator, Malta, and Chairman, Malta Irrigation District

01:13:13 Larry Mires, Executive Director, St. Mary's Rehabilitation Working Group

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:15:35 Sen. Jonathon Windy Boy, SD 16

[EXHIBIT\(los08a06\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(los08a07\)](#)

01:18:12 Darrell James, representing City of Missoula

[EXHIBIT\(los08a08\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:**

01:20:03 Alec Hansen, representing Montana League of Cities and Towns

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:22:33 Sen. Gillan  
01:23:53 Dan Clark, MSU  
01:27:05 Sen. Gillan  
01:27:26 Rep. Stahl  
01:28:53 Sen. Gillan  
01:29:03 Roger Running Crane  
01:29:37 Sen. Erickson  
01:29:50 Rep. Stahl  
01:34:21 Sen. Erickson  
01:34:45 Rep. Stahl  
01:36:35 Sen. Tutvedt  
01:37:11 Rep. Stahl  
01:38:14 Sen. Tutvedt  
01:38:34 Roger Running Crane  
01:39:22 Sen. Essmann  
01:40:29 Former Rep. John Musgrove  
01:41:07 Sen. Essmann  
01:42:19 Sen. Hansen  
01:42:58 Sen. Barkus  
01:43:34 Larry Mires  
01:46:17 Sen. Barkus  
01:46:49 Rep. Stahl  
01:48:06 Sen. Essmann  
01:48:37 Larry Mires  
01:51:19 Sen. Gallus  
01:51:35 Paul Azevedo  
01:52:18 Chairman Esp  
01:53:08 Alec Hansen  
01:53:41 Chairman Esp  
01:54:37 Sen. Hansen

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:54:49 Sen. Ken Hansen

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 5:10 P.M.

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DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

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Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([los08aad.pdf](#))**